GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:312
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2001
MID-TERM APPRAISAL OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES
SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether mid-term appraisal of the Ninth Five Year Plan by the Planning Commission has revealedslow pace of the rural development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the pace of rural development; and

(d) the impact thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in Reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 312 due for answer on 11.12.2001

(a) to (d) The Mid-Term Appraisal of the Ninth Five Year Plan, hadsuggested, as per interim estimates, that the projections on reduction of proportion and number of people Below the Poverty Line (made for the Ninth Plan) were not realised in the first two years of the Plan period. According to the Planning Commission, the same could, inter alia, be due to uneven agricultural growth, slow down in the growth of real wages owing to non-increase in labour absorption, inadequate reach of the Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in the Northern and Eastern States, the fiscal difficulties resulting in lower spending on Social sectors and limited growth of the rural non-farm sector.

2. In this context, it may be mentioned that the proportion of the people Below the Poverty Line is estimated to have declined from 36% in 1993-94 to 26% in 1999-2000, based on the Household Consumer Expenditure Survey of the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) during 1999-2000.

3 . The progress of various Poverty Alleviation Programmes continues to be under close review so as to bring about further improvement in the efficiency/effectiveness of the Schemes, remove procedural bottlenecks and reduce leakages. Based on experience of Programme implementation and operation as also the findings of Evaluation Reports, the Programmes have been redesigned/restructured, as required, to accelerate the process of rural development. The Government have also introduced a four pronged strategy to improve the impact of Rural Development Programmes viz., creating awareness about the Schemes, ensuring transparency in implementation, promoting peoples` participation and enforcing accountability/Social Audit by strengthening the Gram Sabhas.